

Operation Care for Troops – Sending ‘home’ overseas



Operation Care volunteers assemble packages for troops stationed overseas.

Courtesy photo

“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause.”

– Abraham Lincoln



D. QUINCY WHITNEY

How can you be present across time, culture and the geography of war?

Can you package joy? Send a smile? Hand-craft a moment of humor?

The answer is that you do a thousand little things in a big way – you start small with one gesture. One small gesture can mushroom into transformation.

In 2004, as Sgt. 1st Class Brian Moore took on his first tour in Iraq, his sister Carole asked if there were any basic items her brother needed that were difficult to obtain overseas. She also asked if she could send packages to buddies in his unit. As Moore recalls in his memoir “Purple Hearts and Wounded Spirits,” “Not only did she send care packages, she addressed each one to

the individual soldier by name. Each package contained a variety of items that I suggested would be helpful. The response from the guys was surprising and humorous.” One soldier likened the personalized package to Walmart-in-a-box.

The gesture made by a sister to a brother in 2004 has since mushroomed into Operation Care For Troops – a cross between a portable way station; a wayside inn; a convenience store; a group therapy session; a telephone request line; a metaphoric massage; a kind word; a

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